

REMARKS

In the April 29, 2003 Office Action, claims 1-11 and 14-22 were rejected in view of prior art, while claims 12-13 were indicated as being allowed. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowance and the thorough examination of this application. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the April 29, 2003 Office Action, claims 1, 16, and 21-22 have been amended as indicated above. Also, claims 2, 14, and 19 were canceled in the previous Amendment filed on April 14, 2003. Thus, claims 1, 3-13, 15-18 and 20-22 are pending, with claims 1, 12 and 16 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Interview Summary

On July 15, 2003, the undersigned conducted a personal interview with Examiner Matecki and Examiner Langdon, who are in charge of the above-identified patent application. Applicants wish to thank Matecki and Examiner Langdon for their courteous interview and the opportunity to discuss the above-identified patent application.

During the interview, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the Yeh patent and the Noda patent was discussed. Although no agreement was reached, the Examiners suggested adding limitation that "the harness connector and the rod mount are disposed at the same level" to claims 1 and 16. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiners for their helpful suggestion and thorough examination of this patent application.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

On pages 2-4 of the Office Action, claims 1-11 and 14-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,865,388 ("the Yeh patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,150,854 ("the Noda patent"). In response, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 16 as indicated above.

Independent claims 1 and 16 as now amended require that the harness connector or the harness connecting means and the rod mount be provided at substantially the same level. Applicant believes the Yeh patent and the Noda patent do not disclose or suggest the arrangement of claims 1 and 16 either singularly or in combination.

The Yeh patent discloses a dual-bearing reel 50 that is mounted to the fishing rod from below via the rod mount 26. As asserted in the Office Action, the Yeh patent does not disclose or suggest a harness connector. The Noda patent discloses a two-bearing reel that has harness clips 40 and 41 on the top, and the pole mount 20 at the bottom. In view of the fact that the fishing reel of the Yeh patent is designed to be supported with only hands as shown in Figure 4 and column 2, lines 62-67, Applicant believes that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to attach a harness of the Noda patent to the fishing reel of the Yeh patent.

Even assuming *arguendo* that the fishing reel shown in the Yeh patent can be construed as a larger reel that is to be supported with a harness, Applicant believes that attaching a harness to the fishing reel of the Yeh patent based on the disclosure of the Noda patent would not result in the arrangement of now-amended claims 1 and 16. As clearly seen in Figure 1 of the Noda patent, the harness clips 40 and 41 of the Noda patent are attached to the side frame 11. If the harness connectors of the Noda patent are applied to the fishing reel of the Yeh patent, the harness connectors will be attached to the side plates of the reel body 10. Clearly, the harness connectors

attached to the side plates and the fishing rod 26 will not be in the same plane as required by now-amended claims 1 and 16. Therefore, Applicant believes that the combination of the Yeh patent and the Noda patent would not disclose or suggest the arrangement of claims 1 and 16 as now amended.

Regarding dependent claims 3-11, 15, 17-18, and 20-22, they depend from claims 1 and 16. Since independent claims 1 and 16 are allowable, Applicant also believes that dependent claims 3-11, 15, 17-18, and 20-22 are also allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn in view of the above comments and amendments.

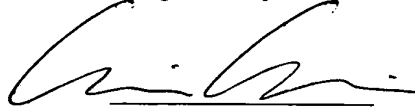
Allowable Subject Matter

On page 1 of the Office Action, claims 12 and 13 were indicated as being allowed. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowance.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1, 3-13, 15-18 and 20-22 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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